

Snippets of Success

July 2024



Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg.



Consortium Canolbarth y De
Central South Consortium

Gwasanaeth Addysg ar y Cyd
Joint Education Service

**A celebration of good news and success
stories from schools across the
Central South Consortium region**



ACROSS THE REGION

NQT Regional Professional Learning

Once again, CSC's 5-day 'Aspire' induction programme for Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs) received outstanding positive feedback from participants. This programme, available to all NQTs in the region, including those on short term supply, was co-constructed and facilitated by highly experienced and trained tutors in our host schools across the region. The programme consists of high-quality professional learning, combining discussion, research, sharing ideas, observation, learning walks and reflection.

Aspire host schools:

Bridgend

- **Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen**
- **Pencoed Primary School**
- **Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Calon y Cymoedd**
- **Oldcastle Primary School**

Cardiff

- **Cardiff High School**
- **Fitzalan High School**
- **Herbert Thompson Primary School**
- **Whitchurch High School**
- **Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf**

RCT

- **Hawthorn High School**
- **Miskin Primary School**
- **Tonyrefail Community School**
- **Treorchy Comprehensive school**
- **Y Pant Comprehensive School**
- **Ysgol Nantgwyn**

Merthyr Tydfil

- **Troedyrhiw Community Primary School**

Vale of Glamorgan

- **Cadoxton Primary School**
- **Stanwell School**
- **Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg**
- **Ysgol Y Deri**
- **Ysgol y Ddraig**

An incredible **382 NQTs** engaged in the programme this academic year.

93-99% of evaluations across the five-day programme stated that the sessions enhanced their knowledge, were relevant and suited to their needs.



Comments included:

"The NQT Aspire programme has been the best thing about my NQT year."

"It was a very well-organised and well-run day. Everything was tailored to practice and I can see the benefits it will have on my formative and summative assessment."

"Thank you for today, it's good to meet other NQTs and share experiences."

"The school was very warm and inviting, staff welcomed us into their classrooms which was very much appreciated."

"I have enjoyed this day. Speaking with other NQTs in the same situation as me is really helpful in gaining a better insight into teaching and how I can enhance my teaching practice."

"[Tutor] made the experience so much better. I was very nervous before attending but [tutor] made us feel very welcomed. It enabled us to share throughout the session confidently."

Siarter Iaith / Siarter Iaith Cymraeg Campus



Over the past half term, CSC has had the privilege of awarding Siarter Iaith and Siarter Iaith Cymraeg Campus awards to many schools across the region. Schools have worked hard to inspire children and young people to use Welsh inside and outside the classroom and to be proud of their Welsh identity.

These schools have achieved awards during the past half term:

Bridgend

- **Afon y Felin Primary School** – Gold Award (2nd validation)
- **Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr** – Gold Award
- **Cynffig Comprehensive School** – Gold Award

- **Betws Primary School** – Silver Award
- **Coety Primary School** – Silver Award
- **Cefn Cribwr Primary School** – Silver Award
- **Nantyffyllon Primary School** – Silver Award
- **Pen-Y-Bont Primary School** – Silver Award
- **Tondu Primary School** – Bronze Award
- **Pencoeed Comprehensive School** – Bronze Award
- **The Bridge Alternative PRU** – Bronze Award

Cardiff

- **St Bernadette's Primary School** – Gold Award
- **Whitchurch Primary School** – Gold Award
- **Ysgol Gymraeg Melin Gruffydd** – Gold Award
- **Ysgol Treganna** – Gold Award
- **Ysgol Y Berllan Deg** – Gold Award
- **Ysgol Hamadryad** – Gold Award
- **Creigiau Primary School (English Department)** – Gold Award
- **Coryton Primary School** – Silver Award
- **Rhydypenau Primary School** – Silver Award
- **Trowbridge Primary School** – Silver Award
- **Tongwynlais Primary School** – Silver Award
- **Tŷ Gwyn Special School** – Silver Award
- **Lakeside Primary School** – Silver Award
- **Ysgol Gymraeg Pwll Coch** – Silver Award
- **Stacey Primary School** – Silver Award
- **The Court Special School** – Silver Award
- **Lakeside Primary School** – Silver Award
- **Pontprennau Primary School** – Bronze Award

Merthyr Tydfil

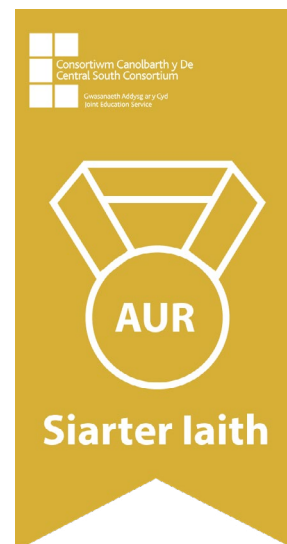
- **Ysgol Rhyd y Grug** – Gold Award
- **Caedraw Primary School** – Silver Award
- **Edwardsville Primary School** – Silver Award
- **Cyfarthfa High School** – Silver Award
- **Pantysgallog Primary School** – Silver Award
- **Trelewis Primary School** – Bronze Award

Rhondda Cynon Taf

- **Ysgol Gymraeg Evan James** – Gold Award
- **Ysgol Llanhari (Primary Department)** – Gold Award
- **Abernant County Primary School** – Silver Award
- **Brynnau Primary School** – Silver Award
- **Ton Pentre Infants School** – Silver Award
- **Cwmbach Church in Wales Primary School** – Silver Award
- **Tonysguboriau Primary School** – Silver Award
- **Maes y Coed Primary School** – Silver Award
- **Ffynnon Taf Primary School** – Silver Award
- **Capcoch Primary School** – Silver Award
- **Llantrisant Primary School** – Silver Award
- **Bodringallt Primary School** – Bronze Award
- **Tref-y-Rhyg Primary School** – Bronze Award
- **Tŷ Gwyn Education Centre** – Bronze Award
- **Glenboi Primary School** – Bronze Award

Vale of Glamorgan

- **St Cyres Comprehensive School** – Silver Award
- **St Brides Major Church in Wales Primary School** – Silver Award
- **Evenlode Primary School** – Silver Award
- **Pendoylan C/W Primary School** - Bronze Award
- **Peterston-Super-Ely Primary School** – Bronze Award
- **Ysgol y Deri** – Bronze Award



Heronsbridge School

Heronsbridge School is a residential special school maintained by Bridgend local authority. The school provides education for pupils aged 3 to 19 years. The school has a well-established vision, 'We give them wings, our Herons will fly', and strong values, which are shared by all staff and stakeholders. These firmly place the pupils at the core of all that happens at the school.

Since 2016 the school was a curriculum pioneer and has subsequently both trialled and refined its curriculum reform journey. It all began with translating the four purposes into what they look like for pupils, ensuring that they were at the heart of everything the school does.

The school's curriculum design started by creating an enquiry group tasked with the question "How do we embed the 4 purposes in Heronsbridge?" Heron avatars were created, embodying the four purposes and the vision for the curriculum. The school developed a four-year cycle of topics that had enough scope and excitement to span the whole school (4-19). Pupil curriculum workshops finely tuned this topic plan, as pupils said what they would like to learn. Mapping progression within the topics ensured that each topic sustains high levels of motivation and engagement of learners as they progress through the school.

Working across the four departments, AOLE teacher groups meet termly to produce topic advice for the whole school. Learners benefit from an experience, skills and knowledge model of progression, which recognises that the richness of the learning experience is crucial for engagement in learning. Individual pupil progress is mapped via learning journeys, which are drawn from summative assessment and person-centred planning meetings.

Through tracking, the school is able to demonstrate that pupils continue to make strong progress, not only from their starting points, but also compared to historical learning profile norms. The school uses a 'Brilliant Blue and On The Way Orange' marking and assessment in learning strategy, which supports pupils to become aware of their progress. Where they are able, some pupils self-assess and a few peer assess. The pupils are happy, have a positive outlook on learning and are well prepared for their next steps in life.

Llangewydd Junior School

In March of 2024, three groups of Year 5 and 6 children from **Llangewydd Junior School** submitted an entry to the Technocamps 'Game of Code' competition. All three teams were lucky enough to have their games shortlisted for the final at Cardiff University in April 2024.

The pupils were thrilled to be attending the final and were excited about visiting the university's computer science building. Whilst at the final, the pupils participated in a range of activities including Micro:Bit activities and 'unplugged' computational thinking activities. The pupils also had the opportunity to discuss and test other group's games.

All of the pupils spoke articulately with the judges about their games, representing the school well and making the accompanying staff very proud. All of the pupils were awarded a goody bag for making it to the final but one of the groups from the school also won an extra prize for winning the 'Teamwork' competition. A successful day all round for Llangewydd Junior School!



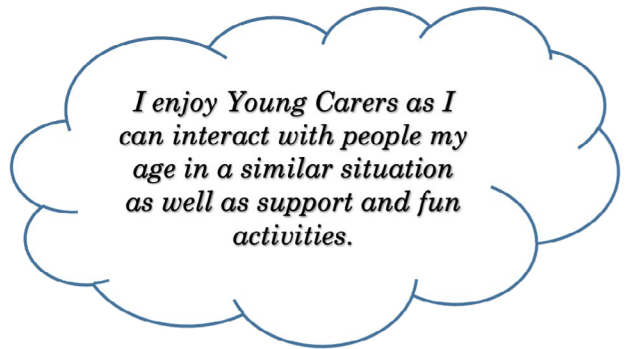
Pencoed Comprehensive School

Pencoed Comprehensive School are delighted to have become the first secondary school in Bridgend to achieve the young Carer Friendly+ Award. The award is testament to the staff led by Mrs Bishop and the Pencoed Young Carers.

As a school, the focus on young carers is very much at the forefront of a whole school approach. The school Wellbeing Hub is an integral part of the school approach to supporting young carers and is testament to the partnership that exists between the young carer group and staff. Although there are key staff who support the group, the award very much belongs to the Young Carers Group themselves.

The 30 strong young carers group meets every two weeks and the number of young carers that have joined the group has increased since the pandemic. The meetings are designed to provide a safe environment so that learners can talk freely to others who understand, about their experiences and the challenges they face everyday.

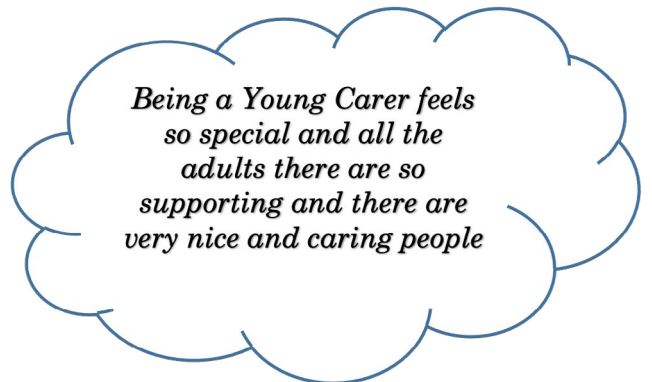
Young carers carry out their caring duties outside school daily and often miss out on opportunities and activities that other young people take for granted. The school recognises the fact that young carers are already likely to have significantly lower educational attainment than their peers, so support is at hand for those young carers who need extra academic support.



I enjoy Young Carers as I can interact with people my age in a similar situation as well as support and fun activities.



It helps me because I can have a break from work and everything and doing different fun activities

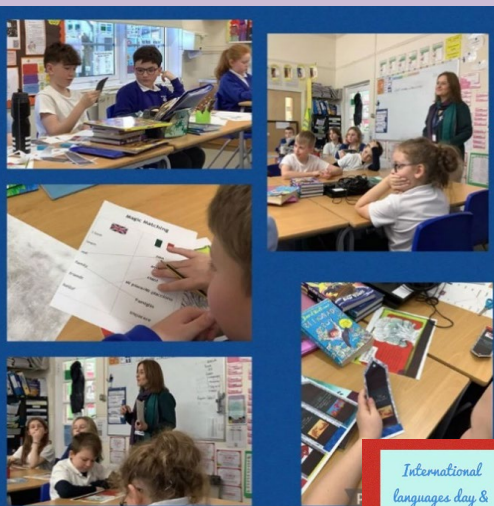


Being a Young Carer feels so special and all the adults there are so supporting and there are very nice and caring people

St Robert's RC Primary

Well done to the Year 5 students at **St Robert's RC Primary** that have been involved in a series of storytelling workshops with international language students from Swansea University. Through five multilingual sessions that used story telling as stimulus to learn about different languages and cultures, students engaged with learning French, Spanish, and Mandarin, conducting activities like "Looks the same, sounds the same?" or "Match up cognates", that helped them notice the differences and similarities between the languages.

Sharing highlights of their collaboration with the story telling project on social media, the students remarked that they "learnt a great deal about languages and [...] really enjoyed learning new words in Italian". Dr Giovana Donzelli from Swansea University was truly impressed with the students' positive attitude: "It was fascinating to see how willing the kids were to engage and how they could converse in Mandarin, for example, by the end of the intervention." The school is already making great progress with the teaching of French in curriculum time, and they are fully embracing every opportunity to develop their learners' plurilingual competence in new and creative ways, preparing them to be citizens of a bilingual Wales in a multilingual world. Bravo!



West Park Primary School

At **West Park Primary School**, a great deal of hard work and dedication goes in to providing the pupils with a rich and diverse curriculum full of opportunities to become ambitious and capable lifelong learners with strong values and a sense of empathy and respect for one another and for the world we live in. When developing the school curriculum, the school community were keen to ensure the curriculum reflected the strong ethos and values of the school with regard to climate action and sustainability. Teachers incorporate a range of learning activities to support the pupils' understanding of these global issues and provide opportunities for putting learning into action. Some of the opportunities include the Eco Green Leaf Shop, the Sustainable Wardrobe of clothes for families to access, work towards the Eco School Platinum Flag status, community garden, tracking plastic along the local coastline, beach cleans, designing and making wind turbines, and so much more.

The Peace Committee pupils with their lead, Mrs Mainwaring, produced a PowerPoint presentation to demonstrate just some of the ways the school develops an understanding towards this mission across the whole of the school. The presentation was submitted to a competition held by the Peace Schools Centre for International Affairs.

The school was overjoyed and delighted to announce that West Park Primary are the proud winners of the Wales Climate Action Hero Award. The Peace Committee were thrilled to travel to Llangollen last week to accept the award on the main stage of the Eisteddfod on behalf of West Park Primary. The school are very appreciative of all the support of the staff, community and governors and the West Park pupils look forward to continuing to build upon the strong foundations for future generations.



Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr

Through pupil voice feedback in Year 2, teachers at **Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr** identified their learners' interest in using Microbits to support storytelling.

Using the Talk for Writing approach of Story Mapping, pupils had learned the story *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* by Michael Rosen. The children and their teachers decided to use Microbits to support their recall of the story and to showcase their understanding.

Initially, the children used printed, paper Microbits to colour in their code and to plan out how the story would look on the device. They thought about key scenes from the story that they wanted to display on the Microbit. This paper planning enabled pupils to debug their code as it developed, and they could quickly identify and correct problems and find solutions.

Once they had completed this physical, paper-based plan, the children moved on to adding their chosen images to the Microbits. Pupils created between 1 and 14 images to save and display on the Microbit. These images varied in complexity and depicted key story features such as the grass and water.

Using the Microbits and the code that they had written, pupils were able to perform for other pupils, demonstrating their storytelling ability and coding skills. This rich experience provided a relevant and useful reason to develop and apply computational thinking skills whilst promoting oracy and storytelling.



CARDIFF SCHOOLS



Cardiff West Community High School

On April 15th 2024, **Cardiff West Community High School** was delighted to host Cardiff West's first ever Provisions Open Afternoon. The school welcomed outside agencies and community partners who work closely with our provision learners and staff to meet parents and learners, highlighting the fantastic progress and engagement we have seen since September 2023.

Learners from the behaviour and nurture provisions were able to show their parents/carers their classwork books, meet their trusted members of staff and have a coffee and biscuit.

The school are very thankful to the following agencies who attended; Baxter Project, Cardiff City Foundation, Action for Children, CAVC, Emotional Health & Wellbeing Team (LA), Youth Mentor, Careers Wales and Family Gateway, who were all able to provide parents with guidance and support.

A wonderful event, full of buzz and chatter, where positive links were built with the local community. The school thanks both the parents and learners who were able to attend and the staff who work tirelessly to support the school's learners and families and are looking forward to our next Provisions Open Afternoon in July 2024.

Llysfaen Primary School

Llongyfarchiadau to **Llysfaen Primary School** for being recognised by Estyn for highly effective provision for developing pupils' Welsh skills and their knowledge, history, culture and people of Wales (cynefin).

Having worked with Llysfaen on developing many aspects of Cymraeg, CSC is delighted that Estyn has recognised that staff are very good role models in using the language regularly and that the school's well-planned and progressive curriculum ensures that pupils improve their Welsh skills systematically and quickly, and that as a result, many pupils make very strong progress.

Ysgol Y Wern, Ysgol Mynydd Bychan, Ysgol Treganna and Ysgol Melin Gruffydd

There was keen competition in Cardiff as four schools **Ysgol Y Wern, Ysgol Mynydd Bychan, Ysgol Treganna and Ysgol Melin Gruffydd** took part in the county round of Yr Ornest Lyfrau. A competition which is organised by the Welsh Book Council. A range of fiction and non-fiction books were covered by the schools. The judges were delighted with the quality of the discussions and the presentations of their promotional adverts. The discussions were mature in explaining the content of the books and their rich and accurate use of language. The adverts were of a high standard with fantastic and lively performances by the pupils. Competition was close between the schools. Ysgol Melin Gruffydd had the opportunity to represent the county in the national round of Yr Ornest Lyfrau in Aberystwyth. It is a pleasure to announce that **Ysgol Melin Gruffydd** are the champions of the Welsh Book Council's national Book Contest 2023-24. Congratulations to the school. CSC would like to thank the schools for supporting the competition.



Ysgol Gymraeg Glan Ceubal

Over a short period of three months, **Ysgol Gymraeg Glan Ceubal** has installed and established a functioning and flourishing Healthy Playground, funded through a grant from Trees for Cities. This project has been embraced, not only by the staff and learners, but also the wider community. In just three months, Ysgol Gymraeg Glan Ceubal has seen remarkable progress with their Healthy Playground initiative. Students are actively participating in outdoor learning, gaining hands-on experience in growing their own produce. The school has successfully organised plant sales and distributed salad boxes, fostering a sense of entrepreneurship and ownership among the learners. Additionally, the Monday morning gardening club has become a hub of community engagement, bringing together learners and parents to work on gardening projects and share knowledge.

As a result of the learners' enthusiasm, the school raised money to buy a HotBin, a hot composter, to support their environmental initiatives. This composter allows the school to process a growing amount of waste, including paper and cardboard from classrooms, fruit from snack time, garden waste, and they are now beginning to compost leftover waste from dinner time. This initiative not only reduces waste but also produces nutrient-rich compost for their garden.

The positive effects of Gardd Ceubal, the name chosen by the learners for their garden, are inspiring. Students are not only more engaged in their studies but also developing a deeper understanding of sustainability and healthy living. The garden serves as a living classroom, where learners can see the direct results of their efforts and understand the importance of environmental stewardship. Furthermore, the initiative has strengthened the school community, fostering a collaborative spirit and providing a vibrant, green space for relaxation and recreation. The garden has become a symbol of pride for the school, showcasing their commitment to education, sustainability, and the wider community.



Whitchurch High School



Throughout the academic year post-16 students at **Whitchurch High School** have been actively engaging with VESPA strategies to support learner effectiveness and develop independence. Key Stage 5 Progress Leaders have been embedding VESPA activities and revision strategies to prepare students for their next steps in education, supported through the CSC VESPA enquiry project.

Progress leaders used Alps Connect data to identify underachievement in specific groups of learners and strategically planned interventions using VESPA activities to support retention and raise student motivation. The sixth form tutor team were integral in explicitly teaching effective study habits and revision strategies and embraced the opportunity to undertake one-to-one coaching to support learner aspirations and destinations.

Overall, the VESPA Academy online platform enabled the sixth form team to monitor, not only their focus group more effectively but also the whole year group. Form tutors became more involved in monitoring students' well-being and progress and regularly communicated any concerns to the Progress Team. As a result, the team were able to check in much earlier on the progress and attitude of a range of students who gave cause for concern. VESPA has been a valuable tool for embedding a positive coaching culture and to support students through their post-16 studies.



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

MERTHYR TYDFIL
SCHOOLS



Caedraw Primary School

The Headteacher of Caedraw Primary School in Merthyr Tydfil is working hard with her team of staff and pupils to develop and enhance strong links with the local community. Read below to find out more about the exciting work Mrs Williams and her staff are carrying out with their local school community.

In the last two years as headteacher at Caedraw, it has been my mission to ensure that our community is actively involved in the upbringing of all our pupils. We have achieved this by working closely with our Community Focused Schools team and ensuring that every activity is linked to our Curriculum Provision.

As part of our curriculum offer, we are constantly seeking to provide our pupils with authentic and real learning opportunities. This approach ensures that students can apply their skills in practical contexts, fostering effective and engaging learning experiences.

Caedraw Primary is located in the heart of Merthyr Tydfil town centre, where there is very little green space. To ensure that pupils can engage in learning through “growing,” we applied for a Keep Wales Tidy grant. This grant allowed us to build raised beds and a greenhouse. Additionally, we applied for a Local Authority allotment on the outskirts of Merthyr Tydfil. These initiatives have enabled our pupils to grow fruit and vegetables, enhancing their learning experience. The produce grown has allowed pupils to engage in cooking activities, provide food for the community, and address the poverty agenda. We have a sheltered elderly accommodation close to the school, where the residents have welcomed the fresh, home-grown produce from the allotment.

Opportunities that have arisen to improve standards across the school through these

activities have included improved mathematical skills, enhanced wellbeing, and writing for a purpose. All opportunities are planned with the guiding question, “What learning can we get out of this?” For example, students use rulers to measure the distance between planting seeds, improving their math skills. They also enhance their comprehension and reading standards by following recipes. As a result of the work done in this area the school was one of the first in Wales to gain a level 5 horticultural award.



This is just one of the many Community projects that we have used to move pupils forward and improve their learning. Some other examples are:-

Taking over the museum: PS3 pupils literally took over Cyfarthfa Castle Museum. They created artifacts, became tour guides, sold tickets, and informed the wider community about their learning by owning the museum for a day. This really did showcase the pupils' learning.



A Miracle at Christmas: Due to Caedraw being shadowed by high-rise flats, pupils expressed an interest in having a Christmas lighting show. Working alongside The Community Focused Schools team, pupils made posters, invited traders, and used their entrepreneurial skills to create their own products. Residents, businesses, and parents were invited to the extravaganza where pupils sold the "goods and artefacts" they had made. This truly was an event to remember.

These are just a few of the authentic learning opportunities that have made the school a part of the community. We are hoping to have a bronze and maybe a silver Heart of the Community award in the autumn term.

Ysgol Rhyd y Grug

Congratulations to **Ysgol Rhyd y Grug** for its county success in the Welsh Book Slam competition. This national competition is organised annually by the Welsh Book Council. An enthusiastic team of Years 3 & 4 discussed the non-fiction book, *Enwogion o Fri: Wallace* (the story of the explorer and biologist from Wales). The judges were very impressed as the team expressed their opinions about the content of the book and discussed important facts and referred to personal experiences. Another feature of the competition was to promote a book and get others interested in reading. An entertaining, informative advertisement was produced by a group of pupils to promote the book 'Mira a'r Daith Ysgol'. The advert was full of humour and talented actors. The advert managed to capture the interest of the judges from the start. The team has received an invitation from the Welsh Books Council to attend a virtual event with the author Casia Wiliam. CSC would like to thank the school for supporting the competition.

Goetre Primary School

In order to improve self-evaluation within the school, the headteacher refined the annual cycle of monitoring and evaluation activities and developed a more robust system that includes all stakeholders. This systematic, whole-school approach helps leaders, staff and governors evaluate the school's work and identify current strengths and areas for improvement. One particular feature is the use of three-day internal reviews where senior leaders and staff are joined by governors, consortia staff and professionals from other local schools to review key areas of improvement identified by the school. These events have improved the ability of the school to identify strengths and areas for improvement far more effectively. They have also enabled staff and governors to become more skilled in monitoring standards and reporting evaluatively on progress. A notable feature of the most recent review was the inclusion of numeracy leaders from local schools. Their positive comments improved staff confidence as well as providing useful suggestions for further improvement.

In addition to this, all teachers continue to be involved in observing each other's practice through beneficial 'Quad' observations. These sessions are highly valued by staff and are very effective. Sessions enable teachers to analyse the work of others, highlight strengths and suggest areas for improvement. In addition, these sessions support teachers to engage in useful professional dialogue about teaching and pupils' progress. As a result of these activities, most teachers understand better, that they are accountable for the progress of pupils in their care and have a growing understanding of their strengths and what they need to improve. Both activities were praised by Estyn inspectors during a recent visit.



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

RHONDDA CYNON
TAF SCHOOLS

Pupil Digital Leaders Programme

Schools from across Rhondda Cynon Taf have been taking part in the Pupil Digital Leaders programme. The aims of programme are to promote the development of effective pupil digital leadership and share good practice through purposeful collaboration between schools.

During the programme, learners are challenged to achieve termly milestones to improve digital leadership and share progress during termly virtual network meetings. Practitioners are supported and given opportunities to collaborate through additional termly meetings. Eighteen RCT schools are taking part in the programme, developed by James Protheroe, RCT Lead for Digital Learning and ICT in schools, as part of the RCT Digital Strategy for Schools. During the summer term, learners will have the opportunity to collaborate with digital leaders from other schools in face-to-face meetings.

Good practice will be shared with schools across RCT during a celebration event in the summer term, where learners will receive an award for achieving the milestones of the programme.

Schools taking part in the programme are:

- **Craig Yr Hesg Primary**
- **Ton Pentre Junior School**
- **Trerobart Primary School**
- **Tref y Rhyg primary school**
- **Brynnau Primary School**
- **Treorchy Primary School**
- **Williamstown Primary School**
- **Llantrisant Primary School**
- **Darran Park Primary School**
- **Ss Gabriel and Raphael Primary School**
- **Porth Community School**

- **Cilfynydd Primary**
- **Cwmbach CIW Primary School**
- **Mountain Ash Comprehensive School**
- **Trehopcyn Primary School**
- **Glenboi Primary School**

Progression in DCF Cluster Project

Schools in RCT are taking part in a pilot to share good practice and develop a progressive approach to the development of the DCF. This is part of a wider objective to develop learning in the digital classroom as highlighted in the RCT Digital Strategy for Schools.

Within clusters, practitioners from progression steps 1-5 have been focusing on progression of skills within and between each progression step. As part of the collaboration, progression maps have been developed to support practitioners to develop a consistent approach to the development of the DCF across each cluster. As well as development of skills, the maps will include suggested activities and resources to support the DCF.

During the next stage of the project, a working group will further develop the maps before they are made accessible to all schools throughout RCT. A big thank you to the clusters who have engaged with the first phase of the project:

- **Aberdare Cluster of Schools**
- **Ferndale Community School Cluster**
- **Mountain Ash Comprehensive School Cluster**

RCT Showcase Event

The RCT Showcase Event took place at **Tonyrefail Community School** on Monday 24th June 2024, organised by James Protheroe, the Strategic Lead for Digital Education in RCT.

Digital learning partners, digital leaders, and pupil digital leaders from schools in the borough were invited to attend. The event began with updates from the University of South Wales, Hwb and Technocamps. Practitioners were invited to participate in workshops highlighting how schools explored using digital tools to enhance teaching and learning. This provided the opportunity for professional dialogue and discussions to take place.

During the morning, pupil digital leaders received awards for their roles and took part in a Q & A session, where Central South Consortium's Digital Learning Team and other Digital Learning Partners gave the children brief outlines of their roles. The children then asked questions to the panel. It was a highly informative morning and was good to celebrate the role of all digital leaders in the borough.

Ysgol Llanhari

Félicitations to talented Lili and Lowri from **Ysgol Llanhari**, winners of the fourth Anthea Bell translation competition from French to Welsh level 1 and 2. The Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators is a creative translation competition for students aged 11-18, run by the Translation Exchange at The Queen's College, University of Oxford. The competition runs from five languages – French, German, Italian, Mandarin, Spanish – into English and from French into Welsh. What a massive achievement for these talented Year 7 and Year 8 students, considering that over 16,000 students took place in the competition this year.



Ynysboeth Primary School

Au Revoir Wales, Bonjour Paris! Merci to staff at **Ynysboeth Primary School** for organising a very successful "Beyond our Borders" showcase to celebrate the launch of French as the school's international language. The children loved showcasing their work from this term, which has included, among many other activities, running a French Café in reception, creating sketches of the landmarks in France, tasting traditional French food, comparing Eatwell Guides, virtually travelling to France (they had their passports stamped!) and, of course, learning everyday French words and phrases. The feedback from parents was incredibly positive. They couldn't believe the children had developed French speaking skills so fast! Their newly acquired language skills, together with their recent participation in the Language Superheroes training at Cardiff University, means that Ynysboeth students are ready to be multilingual language ambassadors in their community. Bravo!



Ysgol Penderyn

Huge congratulations to **Ysgol Penderyn** for its county success in the Book Contest competition. An enthusiastic team of Years 5 and 6 discussed the non-fiction book, *Enwogion o Fri: Wallace* (the story of the explorer and biologist from Wales). The judges were very impressed listening to their natural conversation and the children's enjoyment was obvious. The judges were taken into a time machine while watching the advert to promote the book *Cymru o Fri*. The pupils managed to present several Welsh celebrities by including facts, different effects, music and humour! CSC would like to thank the school for supporting the competition.



Penarth Cluster International Languages Concert at Stanwell

Glückwunsch and mille fois merci to Frau Jones at **Stanwell School** for hosting the first ever international languages cluster concert in the region on Friday 28th June 2024. The event was conceived as a collaboration between CSC and Stanwell School to raise the profile of languages and showcase the efforts made by all primaries to embed meaningful language learning experiences into their curricula.

The concert kicked off by Frau Jones teaching the pupils the German version of Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes and was followed by marvellous performances by the schools:

- **Victoria Primary** - Alouette, Gentille Alouette in French
- **Sully Primary** – Tango'r Tengo in Spanish, Welsh and English
- **Fairfield Primary** – Cuando un amigo baila in Spanish
- Partner school in Germany – Wenn du fröhlich bist in German
- **Evenlode Primary** – L'arc en ciel in French
- **Cogan Primary** – J'aime les fruits in French
- **Stanwell School** - Das Fliegerlied in German

In between performances, Marina Sáez from CSC prompted the audience to congratulate each act with a cheerful "Bravo" song in Italian. There were also some short multilingual vocabulary quizzes, and, at the end, a few emotional words from Mr Mansfield, the school's headteacher, who was very impressed with the performances and gave a passionate speech about the importance of speaking languages to make connections with others in our global community.

After the event, Frau Jones wrote to all schools to say that:

"The pupils were incredible! It really was such a celebration of languages, with such enthusiasm, participation and energy, even choreography, props and costumes!"

We hope that this is only the first of many cluster concerts in the region.



Llantwit Major School



As part of their school development plan, **Llantwit Major School** identified a post-16 priority to improve sixth form outcomes and retention from Year 12 into Year 13. To address the priority, the Director of Sixth Form engaged in the CSC Alps Connect project and introduced a new mentoring programme to maximise the impact of the data provided by Alps. To ensure that staff were confident and consistent in their use of Alps Connect, training was provided and support videos developed. The Director of Sixth Form carefully analysed the data and developed a common report template. The reports were shared at line management meetings for key discussions on student targets, and mentoring groups were developed from the wealth of data available. There was also a strong focus on specific groups of learners, including vulnerable learners, and links were made between attendance and attainment.

The Director of Sixth Form stated that “the attainment profiles in Alps Connect have been an excellent tool to identify those subjects/ students where attainment is dropping off throughout the year, as a result school leaders can be more proactive, rather than reactive when providing support to students”.

Being able to accurately track progress in Alps Connect after each data drop allowed for earlier interventions with underachieving pupils and to improve retention from Year 12 into Year 13. The school has seen an improvement from 71% last year to currently being on track for around 90% this year. From successful tracking and mentoring the school has seen a noticeable improvement in projected outcomes and the school believes using Alps Connect has been the driving force behind these improvements. Future work will see Alps Connect and mentoring embedded in Year 10 and Year 11 to support learner aspirations and drive school improvement.

Ysgol Iolo Morganwg

Ysgol Iolo Morganwg, as part of their preparation for Cowbridge Pride in June 2023, worked alongside Ian ‘H’ Watkins and singer and composer Caryl Parry Jones to create a song “Bydd yn ti dy hun”. A successful composition workshop was held and over a hundred pupils contributed vocabulary, rhymes, rhythms and ideas on the themes of kindness and self-acceptance.

During the Urdd Eisteddfod in Meifod in May 2024, the song was adopted as the Urdd’s official Pride song. “Bydd yn ti dy hyn” was taught to others and then performed on stage by Ysgol Iolo Morganwg and Ysgol Pontardawe from Neath Port Talbot, where the Urdd festival will be held next year. The aim is to teach the song to as many pupils as possible from across Wales and for it to be performed on an annual basis at the Urdd Eisteddfod. A link to the video of the song can be found [here](#).

Congratulations Iolo Morganwg and thank you for your creative and positive contribution.



Ysgol Sant Curig and Ysgol Pen y Garth

Ysgol Sant Curig (Years 5 and 6) and **Ysgol Pen y Garth** (Years 3 and 4) competed in the county competition for Yr Ornest Lyfrau. The book 'Cymry o Fri' was a popular choice, with both schools choosing to present the book in the form of a promotional advert. Both schools managed to gain the interest of the judges with strong characterisation, excellent acting and great productions. Ysgol Sant Curig had a very mature discussion when discussing the content and style of the book 'Nadolig y Gath yn Sain Ffagan'. The enjoyment of Ysgol Pen y Garth pupils was evident when discussing the book 'Mira a'r Daith Ysgol'. The pupils managed to identify with the main character. Ysgol Sant Curig had the opportunity to represent the county in the national competition Yr Ornest Lyfrau in Aberystwyth. CSC would like to thank the school for supporting the competition.



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